

**From:** Michael Rowley  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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The Microsoft settlement is a bad idea.

The settlement does nothing to redress any past action of microsoft which has hurt the american consumer and other businesses by denying diversity and technology to the computer public. It also does nothing to address the current monopoly that exists with microsoft. This company has placed themselves in a position very similar to IBM circa 1968, or Standard Oil, and this settlement only makes noise at preventing them from spreading their monopoly. It is less than useless. The only way to redress the problem would be to separate the middleware and OS parts of microsoft in to separate companies and forbid them from coercive behavior by enforcing this separation. Also it would allow more diversity in operating systems, and more choice and therefor more growth.

I believe this settlement was reached out of fear over the economy, and the misguided belief that microsoft somehow holds the key to the computer industry. In truth they have been strangling the computer industry for over 15 years. To truely increase growth microsoft must be stopped, or no growth will occur, as they already control over 90% of the computers run in this country. It is virtually imposible to buy a computer that does not contain a microsoft operating system, or microsoft software as a cornerstone of the computer. As long as microsoft holds that 90% monopoly, they will continue to have a stranglehold on the computer industry.

Michael A Rowley.